

BINDING OF MONOCLONAL ANTI-DNA TO HEPARAN SULPHATE (HS), GEM-HEPARAN SULPHATE PROTEOGLYCAN (GEM-HSPG) AND TO ISOLATED GEM-LOOPS. Jo H.M. Berden*, Rose-Marie Teemaat*, Ruud J.T. Smeenk*, Peter Vaabert*, Karel J.M. Assmann* (intr. by Robert Koene). Depts. of Nephrology and Pathology, Hospital Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Previously we have shown (JCI 1986;77:1824) that polyclonal anti-DNA can crossreact with HS in ELISA. Forty-two monoclonal anti-DNA antibodies (MoAb) were obtained by fusion of spleen cells from MRL/L (NZBWF₁) and GvH mice. Sixteen of the MoAb crossreacted in ELISA with HS. This binding to HS could be inhibited by DNA. Fifty percent of HS-crossreactive MoAb bound to human GEM-HSPG in ELISA and/or Western blots, but got to HSPG-core protein after removal of HS. Subsequently we isolated GEM-loops (GEM-L) from human and rat glomeruli. Ultrastructurally we found a strong binding of cationic ferritin (CaF), indicating that anionic sites were well preserved. With indirect immunofluorescence on cryostat sections of these GEM-L, 7 of the 12 MoAb showed a fine granular staining along the GEM. Binding to GEM-HSPG in ELISA and to GEM-L could be inhibited by DNA. Separitine treatment of GEM-L diminished but did not completely prevent binding of either CaF or MoAb. Preincubation of GEM-L with CaF almost completely inhibited the subsequent binding of MoAb. Some MoAb showed a positive GEM-L staining although they did not bind in ELISA to HS or GEM-HSPG. These results demonstrate that monoclonal anti-DNA antibodies can bind directly to HS and to other not yet identified anionic sites in the GEM. The findings suggest that direct binding of anti-DNA to GEM might play a role in the initiation of SLE-nephritis.

TRANSFORMING GROWTH FACTOR β (TGF β) UNIQUELY REGULATES PRODUCTION AND STRUCTURE OF GLOMERULAR EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX PROTEOGLYCAN. W. Border, S. Okuda*, L. Languino*, B. Ruoslahti*. University of Utah Health Sciences Center, Salt Lake City, UT and La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation, La Jolla, CA.

Accumulation of extracellular matrix (ECM) is a prominent feature of progressive glomerulonephritis. Since some growth factors are known to stimulate ECM production we examined the effects of TGF β , interleukin-1 (IL-1), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) on the production of ECM by rat mesangial cells in culture. Cells were metabolically labeled with ³⁵S sulfate or ³⁵S methionine and conditioned media were analyzed by SDS-PAGE with fluorography combined with the use of enzymes or antibodies for specific molecular identification. In control experiments mesangial cells produced two species of proteoglycan identified as broad bands centered at 200 and 120 KD. These bands correspond in size to the small chondroitin/dermatan sulfate proteoglycans PG I and PG II (decorin) respectively and enzyme digestion showed both bands to be composed of chondroitin/dermatan sulfate. Exposure to TGF β for 48 h greatly increased the PG I band and induced a structural change detected as a shift in electrophoretic mobility. TGF β also produced a small increase in fibronectin but not laminin or type IV collagen. IL-1, PDGF or TNF had no substantial effects. These experiments show that TGF β is unique among growth factors in its metabolic effects on glomerular ECM. The release of a substance like TGF β in glomerulonephritis could stimulate the expansion of ECM and mediate the progression to glomerulosclerosis.

9:151255 BIOSIS

R36:73296

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ORDER W; OKUDA S; LANGUINO L; RUOSLAHTI E

UTAH HEALTH SCI. CENT., SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA.

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,

SA, DECEMBER 11-14, 1988. KIDNEY INT 35 (1). 1989. 341. CODEN:

DIYIA5 ISSN: 0085-2538

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